

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 OIC-02 AGRE-00 ITC-01 H-01
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R 120210Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2145
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9042

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN, UN, IN
SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: INDIAN VIEWS ON THE
OUTCOME OF THE MAY MEETING

REF: STATE 135929

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ARUNDATI GHOSE, DIRECTOR FOR UN
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO
DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING.
GHOSE HAD BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE
SESSION EN ROUTE TO HAVANA AND HAD STAYED OVER IN NEW
YORK FOR FOUR DAYS TO DISCUSS COW AND TCDC MEETINGS ON
HER WAY BACK. AS FORMER INDIAN PERM DEL OFFICER

COVERING UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE, SHE HAS EXTENSIVE CON-
TACTS IN NEW YORK. SHE REPORTS TWO PRINCIPAL REACTIONS
TO COW MEETING: (1) COW IS A VALUABLE FORUM AND LDCS
WERE MISTAKEN NOT TO SEND HIGHER RANKING DELEGATION
HEADS, AND (2) DISPUTE WITH DCS OVER USE OF COW FOR
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"NEGOTIATIONS" MUST STILL BE RESOLVED.

2. FORM: GHOSE REPORTED A GENERAL RECOGNITION AMONG
G-77 DELEGATIONS THAT THEY HAD ERRED IN NOT FIELDING
POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS AS THE DCS HAD
DONE. ALTHOUGH SESSION WAS UNPRODUCTIVE IN MANY WAYS,
GOI AND OTHERS HAD CONCLUDED THAT COW PROVIDED A

VALUABLE FORUM FOR THE PURSUIT OF NORTH/SOUTH AGREEMENT. GOI WAS ALREADY THINKING OF UPGRADING ITS DELEGATION TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. THE DIVERSITY OF AGANDA TOPICS CAUSED THEM A PROBLEM IN THIS REGARDAS MINISTER COULD ONLY BE PRESENT FOR PART OF THE SESSION. ONE POSSIBILITY AT THE PRESENT TIME WAS TO SEND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES GEORGE FERNANDES TO MAKE A MAJOR EXPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT'S NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

3. SUBSTANCE: GHOSE DID NOT DISPUTE THAT G-77 ATTEMPT TO WIN DC APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENTS HAD PROVED UNWIELDY. SHE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT G-77 DELEGATIONS WERE TAKEN ABACK BY DC INSISTENCE THAT COW WAS NOT A FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SHE REPORTED THAT MANY DELS TOOK THE POSITION, "IF THEY WON'T NEGOTIATE, WE'LL VOTE". GOI FOR ITS PART CONTINUED STRONGLY TO OPPOSE VOTING IN COW, SHE REPLIED TO THEM, NOTING THAT UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE PROVIDED AN ADEQUATE FORUM FOR EXPRESSING VIEWS BY VOTE WHEN NECESSARY.

4. SHE RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS PARTLY DISAGREEMENT OVER THE MEANING OF "NEGOTIATIONS". SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD TOLD G-77 FRIENDS, SPEAKING AS A MINISTRY OFFICIAL, THAT GOI COULD NOT AGREE TO SHIFTING TECHNICAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS TO NEW YORK WHENEVER THEY WERE STALLED IN ANOTHER FORUM: "THE GENEVA G-77 WOULD NEVER STAND FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT." ROLE OF COW HAD TO BE MORE LIMITED. WHERE NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FOURMS REVEALED A POLICY IMPASSE, THAT SPECIFIC IMPASSE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, SHE ARGUEDM MATTER WOULD THEN RETURN TO "COMPETENT FORUM" FOR WORKING OUT IMPLEMENTATION. WHILE MATTERS TO BE RESOLVED IN COW WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL, TECHNICAL LEVEL OFFICIALS WOULD BE NEEDED ON DELEGATIONS TO ASSURE THAT THERE WAS A PRACTICAL, SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT TO COW DECISIONS.

5. THE G-77, GHOSE SAID, COULD NEVER ACCEPT THAT COW WOULD SERVE ONLY AS FORUM FOR DISCUSSION. THE WORD "DISCUSSION" IMPLIED THE ABSENCE OF ACTION TO THEM. SHE CONCLUDED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS A FORMULA WHICH LINKED THE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL OVERTONE OF "DISCUSSION" WITH THE GOAL OF REACHING AGREEMENTS WHICH COULD BE PUT INTO ACTION. EMBOFF AND SHE AGREED THAT SIMILAR PROBLEM HAD BEEN FACED DURING CIEC.

6. BEYOND DEFINITION OF COW'S PURPOSE, GHOSE CONCLUDED THAT A METHOD WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO FOCUS DELIBERATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEW ON SPECIFIC ACTIONABLE ISSUES WITHIN

AGENDA TOPICS. SHE NOTED THAT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JAZAIRY HAD ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH A FEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN PREPARATION FOR "RESUMPTION" OF THE FIRST SESSION IN SEPTEMBER. SHE ASSUMED HE WOULD SEEK TO PINPOINT SPECIFIC AREAS OF AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE SUBSTANCE TO SESSION'S CONCLUSIONS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SHE SUGGESTED THAT IN THE FUTURE OFFICERS FROM MISSIONS IN NEW YORK COULD MEET AS A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC "KEY PROBLEMS" BEFORE COW.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GHOSE DID NOT CALL ATTENTION TO IT, WE NOTE THAT LDC DEMAND FOR "NEGOTIATIONS" IN THE COW IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE NON-ALIGNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUREAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING.
BLOOD

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Message Attributes

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